



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6226

January Session, 2011

* ____HB06226PD____041911____ *

AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS-REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) Any animal control
2 officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the
3 general statutes, who (1) has reasonable cause to suspect that an
4 animal observed in the course of the officer's employment is being or
5 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section
6 53-247 of the general statutes, and (2) files a verified petition with the
7 Superior Court pursuant to section 22-329a of the general statutes,
8 shall make a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture in
9 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

10 (b) The report shall be made by the officer as soon as practicable, but
11 not later than forty-eight hours after the officer has filed the verified
12 petition. Each report shall contain, if known: (1) The address where the
13 animal was observed and the name and address of the owner or other
14 person responsible for care of the animal; (2) the name and a
15 description of the animal; (3) the nature and extent of the harm, neglect
16 or cruelty to the animal; (4) the approximate date and time such harm,
17 neglect or cruelty occurred; (5) any information concerning any
18 previous harm to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal; (6) the
19 circumstances under which such harm, neglect or cruelty came to be

20 known by the officer; and (7) the name and address of every person
21 the officer reasonably suspects to be responsible for such harm, neglect
22 or cruelty.

23 (c) Not later than November 1, 2011, and monthly thereafter, the
24 Commissioner of Agriculture shall send a report to the Commissioner
25 of Children and Families containing all of the information received
26 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the preceding month.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) Not later than one week
28 after receiving a report pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of this
29 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall determine if any
30 address provided in said report is an address where the Department of
31 Children and Families has opened an investigation of a child pursuant
32 to a report of abuse or neglect made under chapter 319a of the general
33 statutes. If the commissioner determines that there is an open
34 investigation of a child at the same address as an address provided in
35 said report, the commissioner shall provide the department's
36 investigator with all relevant information from said report. The
37 department shall include the information provided to the investigator
38 in the department's record on the child.

39 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) Any employee of the
40 Department of Children and Families who, in the course of his or her
41 employment, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or
42 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section
43 53-247 of the general statutes shall make an anonymous oral report to
44 the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of
45 this section, except that such report shall not be required if the
46 employee determines that making such report will interfere with the
47 performance of the employee's child welfare duties set forth in chapter
48 319a of the general statutes.

49 (b) A report made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
50 made as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after
51 the employee has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been

66 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) The Commissioner of
67 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, make
68 available to all animal control officers training concerning the accurate
69 and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section

KID	Joint Favorable Subst. C/R	ENV
ENV	Joint Favorable	
PD	Joint Favorable	